Since the program code that programs the update information into the device <u>is</u> configured to be executable in a Web browser, the update can also be carried out, as in the second prior art option listed above, by means of a uniform program code and a uniform update information. Also, as a result of making available the update information on a Web server in accordance with the method and the program-controlled device according to the invention, a central availability of update information that is easily kept current and completely maintainable is provided wherein according to the invention the download from the server can be carried out via the device itself. The web server can be, for example, a server that is made available by the device manufacturer and is accessible via the Internet, but it can also be a server which is available for access by different devices within a company.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the program code that is executable in the Web browser is a Java applet. In this connection, Java is an object-oriented programming language developed by the company Sun Microsystems while applet refers is a program designed such that it can be carried out within the frame of another different application. Java applets are the most common program codes executable in a Web browser because they fulfill high safety standards. These safety standards ensure inter alia that a Java applet can communicate within a Web browser exclusively with that server from which the Java applet has been received.

As soon as the update file has been completely received and cached, the update can be performed automatically by the Java applet 6. For this purpose, the update information is programmed into the device 1 by means of the Java applet 6 by using TFTP. The transfer of the required data from by the Java applet 6 to the device 1 is illustrated in Fig. 1 by e). The use of the simple TFTP protocol enables also an update of the network communication program.

In the case that during programming of the update information into the device 1 an error occurs, the Java applet 6, based on the cached copy of the update file (if needed, after performing an error elimination <u>mechanism</u> <u>mechanisms</u> contained within the Java applet 6), carries out a repeat of the programming steps so that, in combination with the initial control of the update file, a high safety with respect to uncorrectable programming errors is provided.